

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 PM-05 NSC-05 ICA-11 OPR-02
PA-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3941

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJ: NIMEIRI VISIT TO US

REFS: (A) STATE 209828 (B) KHARTOUM 3824 (C) STATE 214435

1. FOLLOWING IS INFO WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN REGARDING NIMEIRI'S VISIT SINCE REF B WAS SENT. WE STILL HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE MINPRESIDENCY AFFAIRS, DR. BAHA EL-DIN IDRIS, DESPITE ALMOST DAILY PHONE CALLS TO HIS OFFICE AND A SPECIAL PLEA TO CHIEF OF PROTOCOL RE MY NEED TO DISCUSS VISIT WITH HIM. HOWEVER, WE HAVE DISCUSSED VISIT WITH SEVERAL OTHER OFFICIALS, WHO, THOUGH ESSENTIALLY UNINFORMED ABOUT SPECIFICS, WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH A FEW BITS AND PIECES.

2. IN MEETING WITH ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. GEN. ABDEL MAJID HAMID KHALIL AUGUST 19, I ASKED ABOUT HIGH LEVEL MILITARY MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT'S PARTY. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN IN KHARTOUM WHILE PRESIDENT IS AWAY, BUT IF PRESIDENT ACCEPTS HIS RECOMMENDATION AIR FORCE COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. MOHAMAD MIRGHANI AND/OR AIR DEFENSE COMMANDER BG. FOUAD AHMED SALIH WILL BE INCLUDED. COMMENT: NOT RPT NOT CLEAR YET WHETHER ANY SENIOR SUDANESE MILITARY WILL BE PART OF DELEGATION. DEPARTMENT REMINDED THAT NIMEIRI IS HIS OWN MINDEF AT PRESENT. END COMMENT
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3. A/PAO HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH NIMEIRI'S PRESS ADVISOR AND WILL ATTEND MEETING SATURDAY AUGUST 26 AT MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WHERE PRESS AND PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT WILL BE DISCUSSED. SEPARATE REPORT ON THESE ASPECTS OF VISIT WILL BE SENT FOLLOWING MEETING.

4. I DISCUSSED VISIT WITH FONMIN CHIEF AMERICAS DEPARTMENT RASHID KHIDR. HE SAID HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT NIMEIRI'S WIFE WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM; HE NOTED NIMEIRI VIRTUALLY NEVER BRINGS HIS WIFE WITH HIM ON SUCH TRIPS. HE SAID SUDANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN US RE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. KHIDR EXPECTS NIMEIRI'S PLANE TO LAND AT ANDREWS AFB AND PROMISED PROVIDE SPECIFIC AIR CLEARANCE INFO ASAP. I REMINDED KHIDR ABOUT NEED TO PROCESS VISAS.

5. IN GENERAL, KHIDR SAID, ALL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE HANDLED BY SUDANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WITH ASSISTANCE MINSTATE DENG. FYI: KHIDR WAS CONTROL OFFICER AT EMBASSY DURING 1976 NIMEIRI VISIT TO US, AND HE ASSUMES VISIT WILL BE HANDLED SAME WAY THIS YEAR. END FYI. I RAISED POINT WITH KHIDR THAT VISIT WAS PRIVATE, AND HE SAID THAT SUDANESE WILL MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS, EXCEPT THOSE VOLUNTARILY DONE BY HOSTS IN PLACES OUTSIDE WASHINGTON WHERE NIMEIRI WILL BE VISITING.

6. COMMENT: WE SHALL CONTINUE PRESS LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR DETAILS RE NIMEIRI VISIT, BUT WITH DENG IN US AND BASED ON RASHID KHIDR'S REMARKS, SUSPECT DEPARTMENT WILL GET MORE AUTHORITATIVE INFO MORE QUICKLY BY TALKING DIRECTLY WITH DENG OR AMBASSADOR EISSA. BOGOSIAN

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